

Amendments to the Specification:

Please amend paragraph 5 beginning on page 14 of the specification as filed which bridges pages 14 and 15 to read as follows:

Thus, as shown in FIG. 1, a known tolerance ring with outwardly facing protrusions 2 in the form of waves [[2]] and is fitted around a bearing 3 or bearing assembly 3 (hereinafter referred to as the bearing 3). The bearing 3 and tolerance ring 1 comprise a sub-assembly, which is axially inserted into the bore 4 of a body which may be an actuator arm 5 of a hard disk drive, indicated in FIG. 1 by the arrow 6. Unformed, annular portions 7 of the tolerance ring 1, which have no radial protrusions, axially flank the waves-outwardly facing protrusions 2. Tolerance rings with outwardly facing protrusions are generally known in the art as S.V rings (Shaft Variable), as the diameter of the tolerance ring to be fitted to the bearing may be varied by differing amounts of overlap of the ends of the strip that forms the tolerance ring. The waves outwardly facing protrusions 2 of the ring 1 resiliently engage the surface 8 of the bore 4.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 15 of the specification as filed to read as follows:

As the sub-assembly is inserted into the bore 4, the waves-outwardly facing protrusions 2 of the tolerance ring 1 are compressed. Unformed portions 7 of the tolerance ring 1 that axially flank the waves-outwardly facing protrusions 2 prevent changes in the pitch of the waves outwardly facing protrusions 2, allowing only resilient deformation of each wave outwardly facing protrusions. A radial force is created between the surface 8 of the bore 4 and the bearing 3. An interference fit is thus provided by the tolerance ring 1.

Please amend the second paragraph beginning on page 15 of the specification as filed to read as follows:

During assembly, the waves-outwardly facing protrusions 2 of the tolerance ring 1 slide relative to the surface 8 of the bore 4. Abrasion of the waves against the surface 8 can cause small fragments of the housing 5 to be removed from the surface 8 of the bore 4 (and possibly tolerance ring 1). This problem is compounded if the material of the actuator arm 5 is softer than

the material of the ~~waves~~outwardly facing protrusions 2 of the ring 1. The fragments are known in the art as particles, which can adversely affect the operation of the apparatus in which the tolerance ring 1 is fitted. In the example, particles are extremely undesirable as cleanliness is important for proper functioning of the hard disk drive.

Please amend the second paragraph on page 16 of the specification as filed to read as follows:

Particles may also be produced when using a tolerance ring with inwardly extending protrusions, for example as shown FIG. 3. A tolerance ring 11, with ~~inwardly extending waves 2~~facing protrusions 30, sits concentrically in the bore 4 of the actuator arm 5, with the sides of the ring engaging the sides 8 of the bore 4. This type of ring is known in the art as an H.V. tolerance ring (Housing Variable). A bearing 3 is axially inserted into the ring 11, as indicated in FIG. 3 by the arrow 12. The bearing 3 moves relative to the ~~waves 2~~inwardly facing protrusions 30. As the bearing 3 is made of harder material than the actuator arm 5, particle production is more limited.

Please amend the third paragraph on page 17 of the specification as filed which bridges pages 17 and 18 to read as follows:

A tolerance ring 13 being the first embodiment of the present invention allows a tolerance ring with ~~outward waves~~outwardly facing protrusions 2 to be used in the apparatus but minimises or eliminates the particle production that results from the arrangements shown in FIGS. 1, 2 and 3. The tolerance ring 13 includes a guide portion indicated generally in FIG. 4 by 14. The guide portion 14 resembles a funnel, which flares towards the entrance of the bore 4. The guide portion comprises flared guide surfaces, indicated in cross section by 15a and 15b in FIG. 4, extending axially from the band 16 of the ring 13 towards the entrance of the bore 4.

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 18 of the specification as filed to read as follows:

The guide surfaces 15a and 15b provide an enlarged entrance to the band 16 of the ring 13 for receiving the bearing, eliminating foul on the edge of the ring as described in Example 2. Guide surfaces 15a and 15b are sufficiently smooth so as to guide the bearing 3 into the ring 13, even if there is some axial misalignment of the bearing 3 and the ring 13. As the ~~waves~~

outwardly facing protrusions 2 of the ring 13 do not abrade against any surface during assembly and the end of the bearing 3 does not abrade against the ring 13, particle production is avoided.

As shown, the tolerance ring 13 in the form of an annular band of resilient material has an innermost surface defined by the unformed annular portions 7, and has an outermost surface defined by the outwardly facing protrusions 2 having a diameter. All of the outwardly facing protrusions 2 extend radially outward, each extending between a pair of unformed annular portions. The guide portion is contiguous with and extends axially and radially outward from an endmost unformed annular portion (the topmost unformed annular portion shown in Fig. 4), and flares outwardly from the innermost surface. As shown, the guide portion has a free end defining an opening that has a diameter not greater than the diameter of the unformed annular portions.

The arrangement using an S.V. type ring is preferable for the hard disk drive.